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THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO CONTINGENCY PLAN

for spills of oil
and other
hazardous materials

Status Report – May, 1973

*Major spills
1973-1974*



Ontario

Ministry
of the
Environment

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THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO CONTINGENCY PLAN
FOR SPILLS OF OIL
AND OTHER HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

STATUS REPORT
MAY, 1973

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INDUSTRIAL WASTES BRANCH

THE ONTARIO MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

P R E F A C E

This report summarizes the existing status of the Province of Ontario Contingency Plan for spills of oil and other hazardous materials and is designed to be used in conjunction with the 1971 plan. This report also presents new guidelines for the assessment and reporting of spill incidents to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, and presents new guidelines for the use of oil spill treating agents.

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HISTORY OF CONTINGENCY PLANNING IN ONTARIO

In Ontario, contingency planning for spills of oil was begun in late 1969 as a result of concern being expressed about gas well drilling operations on Lake Erie and because of recommendations made by the IJC that programs were required to prevent the discharge of oil and to improve the capability for control and clean-up in the event of spills.

The initial contingency plan, for Lake Erie, was published by the OWRC in April, 1970 and this was followed six months later by the Province of Ontario Contingency Plan in its preliminary form. After incorporating comments received from industry and other government agencies, the "Interim Province of Ontario Contingency Plan for spills of oil and other hazardous materials" was published in May, 1971 superseding both the Lake Erie and Preliminary Province of Ontario contingency plans.

The interim plan, developed as it was within the OWRC, is limited in scope to those spills which may affect the surface or ground waters of the Province, and is specifically designed for response to major spills. Spills whose sole effect may be on air or land are there-

fore not presently covered by the plan.

Under the Provincial plan, the development of local plans of preparedness are encouraged. Contingency plans have been developed by some municipalities and a number of the larger industries or industry groups. A number of very effective industry cooperatives have also been established, and these cooperatives have played important roles in providing a response capability for smaller spills and "first aid" for larger spills.

In the event of spills which require resources beyond those available to the Province, the Federal Government could be requested to provide assistance under the "Federal Contingency Plan".

For those spills which threaten to pollute international waters in the Great Lakes system, Ontario has accepted certain responsibilities under the "Joint U.S. - Canadian Oil and Hazardous Material Pollution Contingency Plan For The Great Lakes Region". Provincial approval for an amended version of the International Contingency Plan was given in January, 1973.

To ensure that the complete resources available within the Provincial government departments could be made available to cope with emergency situations, it was decided

to solicit more complete participation. The "Interministerial Task Force on Contingency Planning" was therefore established in June, 1971 for the purpose of reviewing and updating the Province of Ontario Contingency Plan and to ensure that each Provincial ministry involved is aware of its responsibilities upon activation of the contingency plan.

The Provincial ministries represented on the Task Force are the Ministries of: Environment, Natural Resources, Transportation and Communications, Health, Solicitor General, and Consumer and Commercial Relations. Environment Canada and industry (PACE*) are also represented. Since its inception, the Ministry of the Environment has provided the Chairman for the Task Force.

* Petroleum Association for Conservation of the Environment

THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO CONTINGENCY PLAN

As it now stands, the Provincial plan outlines a framework for spill discovery and reporting, and for the coordination of available manpower, equipment, and material resources to control and clean up major spills. As previously noted, the plan was developed within the OWRC and, consequently, is limited to spills which may affect the surface or ground waters of the Province.

The Provincial plan was designed to operate in cooperation with other Provincial, Municipal, and Federal Government agencies, and was developed to be compatible with other government and industrial contingency plans. Responsibilities of the involved agencies are contained and outlined in this plan.

The response structure outlined in the contingency plan requires the establishment of Regional Response Teams* throughout the Province. A Regional Response Team consists of key Provincial and Federal representatives who are most likely to be directly involved or are particularly interested in the prompt and proper response to major spill incidents and who are able to make a contribution for the containment and clean-up of such spills. The team presents an expertise pool at the regional level who collectively represent

* formerly called Regional Operations Teams

government or regulatory programs which deal with, pertain to, potentially affect or involve the natural environment.

The main function of a Regional Response Team is:

1. to provide an effective communications link during a major spill incident with the party responsible for the incident, (if known) the party or parties retained to contain and clean-up the spill, and the government or regulatory agencies who have a vital interest in the particular spill incident.
2. to ensure that all necessary information is made available to the Response Team Coordinator* during a major spill incident so that the most effective courses of action can be formulated for combating such spills.
3. to maintain an updated equipment directory, which includes an updated contact list, covering the particular area for which the team is responsible. This directory includes information from the government and private sector.

Since the publication of the 1971 Provincial plan two Regional Response Teams have been established. These are the Lambton County Regional Response Team and the Ottawa - Carleton Regional Response Team. Similar teams are presently being established for the following areas or centers:

Thunder Bay
Sault St. Marie
Sudbury
Windsor
London
Hamilton and Niagara Peninsula
Toronto
Kingston and Cornwall

The terms of reference of these teams do not limit their response to the political boundaries implied by the preceding names.

* formerly called On-Scene Commander

SPILL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Irrespective of the cause of spills, and irrespective of all other reporting requirements, every person from whose control any potentially hazardous material of any kind escapes which may impair the quality of any well, lake, river, pond, spring, stream, reservoir or other water or watercourse (surface or subsurface) is responsible for reporting the loss of such a product or material to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. The Ontario Water Resources Act and the Environmental Protection Act make the above requirement mandatory and state that such reporting be made as soon as possible under the circumstance. Failure to comply with these regulations is an offense and subject to a maximum fine of \$5,000 on summary conviction. The intent of this regulation is to provide a mechanism which assures that containment and clean-up procedures will be carried out promptly and in such a manner as to minimize environmental damage.

Legislation has recently been enacted whereby the Ministry of the Environment may order the person or party responsible for a spill of a product which damages the natural environment to repair such damages. Where a person or party fails to comply with such orders, the Ministry has the authority to effect the necessary clean up at the expense of the responsible person or party.

SPILL ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

For spill reporting purposes it is desirable to make a responsible assessment of the magnitude of any given spill. The Ministry of the Environment uses the following criteria for determining the magnitude of a spill:

1. The response capability of the party responsible for the spill to control, contain and clean-up the spilled material, and/or the availability of local resources (e.g., existence of local cooperatives).
2. An impact evaluation of the spill incident considering the type and amount of the material spilled in relation to the area where the spill occurred, where the spilled material has or is likely to travel and thereby present a nuisance or hazard to others, and whether the spilled material presents or is likely to present a hazard to fish and/or wildlife.
3. An evaluation of the spill incident considering the probable degree of public concern.

ASSESSMENT OF SPILL MAGNITUDE
FOR REPORTING PURPOSES

The magnitude of any spill incident is defined for reporting purposes as follows:

I Minor Spill

A minor spill is a spill incident of oil or other hazardous material -

1. of such magnitude in which the party responsible for the spill can utilizing his own resources, undertake the necessary measures to control, contain and clean up the material spilled; and
2. of such a magnitude as to have no significant effects on fish and wildlife; and
3. not likely to significantly affect or interfere with any private, municipal, industrial or other water supply; and
4. of such a nature as not to generate public concern.

II Moderate Spill

A moderate spill is a spill incident of oil or other hazardous material -

1. of such magnitude in which the resources under a local or cooperative contingency plan are required to effectively contain and clean up the material spilled; or

2. of a volume or type likely to present a significant hazard to fish or wildlife; or
3. of such a nature as to result, or likely to result, in only local adverse effects on, or interference with, any private, municipal, industrial, institutional or other water supply; or
4. of such a nature as to generate public concern in the vicinity of the spill incident.

III Major Spill

A major spill is a spill incident of oil or other hazardous material -

1. of any magnitude requiring resources in addition to those available under a local contingency plan, or a spill which gets out of control when action is being taken under a local contingency plan; or
2. which adversely affects or interferes with or will adversely affect or interfere with private, municipal, industrial, institutional or other water supply or water supply systems other than in the immediate area of the spill; or
3. of such a nature as to present a hazard to human health; or

4. of such a nature as to have or most likely to
have serious adverse effects on fish or wildlife
over a wide area; or
5. of such a nature as to generate or likely to
generate considerable public concern.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO CONTINGENCY
PLAN IN WHOE OR IN PART WOULD BECOME EFFECTIVE UNDER
THE CONDITIONS DEFINED UNDER MAJOR SPILLS

SPILL REPORTING GUIDELINES

General guidelines for the reporting of spill incidents may be summarized as follows:

SPILLS OF A PURELY MINOR NATURE: pertinent information should be provided to the appropriate Regional staff of Industrial Wastes Branch, Ministry of the Environment* as soon as possible during working hours.

MODERATE SPILLS: pertinent information should be provided to the appropriate Regional staff of Industrial Wastes Branch, Ministry of the Environment* as soon as possible.

MAJOR SPILLS: pertinent information must be provided immediately to the Ministry of the Environment. The ONTARIO OPERATIONS CENTER, 416-965-2537, provides a 24-hour service in the event that the appropriate Regional staff of Industrial Wastes Branch* cannot be contacted.

* Note: See the "Notification List", page 16

GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF CHEMICAL OIL SPILL TREATING AGENTS

CHEMICAL DISPERSANTS

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment discourages the discharge of chemical materials into natural waters which in themselves or in conjunction with other materials presents a hazard to living organisms. It is recognized, however, that it may be necessary to use chemical dispersants for combating oil spills under certain conditions. It is necessary, therefore that staff of the Ministry of the Environment*, who have the authority to allow the use of dispersants, be consulted before any chemical dispersants are used.

Generally speaking, the treatment of spills of #2 fuel oil and less viscous distillate fuels with dispersants is not warranted. Such fuels will disperse rapidly by natural processes of weathering. Because of the difficulties encountered in mixing dispersants with heavy residual oils such as #6 fuel oil, the use of dispersants on spills of such oils is not recommended.

* see the notification list on page 16

Permission will not be given for the use of chemical dispersants for combating oil spills where the prime concern is:

1. protection of surface water supplies
2. protection of fish spawning areas
3. protection of fishing areas
4. protection of beaches
5. protection of known waterfowl nesting areas

Dispersants may be considered for the use of combating oil spills:

1. where a fire and safety hazard is present
2. where the floating oil presents an immediate hazard to local waterfowl
3. for the control and clean-up of small oil slicks, and then only after all other possible methods for control, containment and physical removal of the floating oil have been ruled out.

It is recognized that under certain conditions the use of chemical dispersants may have to be considered where it may not be possible to contact staff from the Ministry of the Environment during the process of combating an oil spill. We request that the use of chemical dispersants under these circumstances be reported as soon as possible.

SINKING AGENTS

Materials or products which are designed to remove oil slicks from the surface of watercourses, by a means or method frequently referred to as sinking, are not approved for use in the natural waters in Ontario.

SURFACE TENSION MODIFIERS

Certain chemical compounds have been developed which may be classified as collecting agents or surface tension modifiers. Such compounds can be used under certain conditions as an effective tool during the process of cleaning up some oil spills. It is necessary that staff of the Ministry of the Environment*, be consulted before such products are used. Where the use of such products during emergency situations cannot await approval from Ministry staff, we request notification of their use.

OTHER CHEMICAL OIL SPILL TREATING AGENTS

Various chemicals have been developed for aiding combustion of oil, gelling oil, enhancing the biodegradability of oil, etc., none of which have so far been approved by the Ministry of the Environment.

* see the notification list page 16

APPROVED OIL SPILL TREATING AGENTS

The following substances have been approved as chemical oil spill treating agents and may be used under the guidelines set forth in the section entitled "Guidelines for the use of chemical oil spill treating agents".

CHEMICAL DISPERSANTS

COREXIT 7664

COREXIT 8666

B.P. 1100

B.P. 1100 X

SHELL DISPERSANT LT

SURFACE TENSION MODIFIERS

SHELL OIL HERDER

Manufacturers of other products who wish to obtain approval for the use of their product should submit an "Application for Approval of Oil Spill Treating Agents" to:

Mr. D.P. Caplice, Director
Industrial Wastes Branch
Ministry of the Environment
135 St. Clair Ave. W.,
Toronto, Ontario
M4V 1P5

NOTIFICATION LIST

ONTARIO MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT
INDUSTRIAL WASTES BRANCH

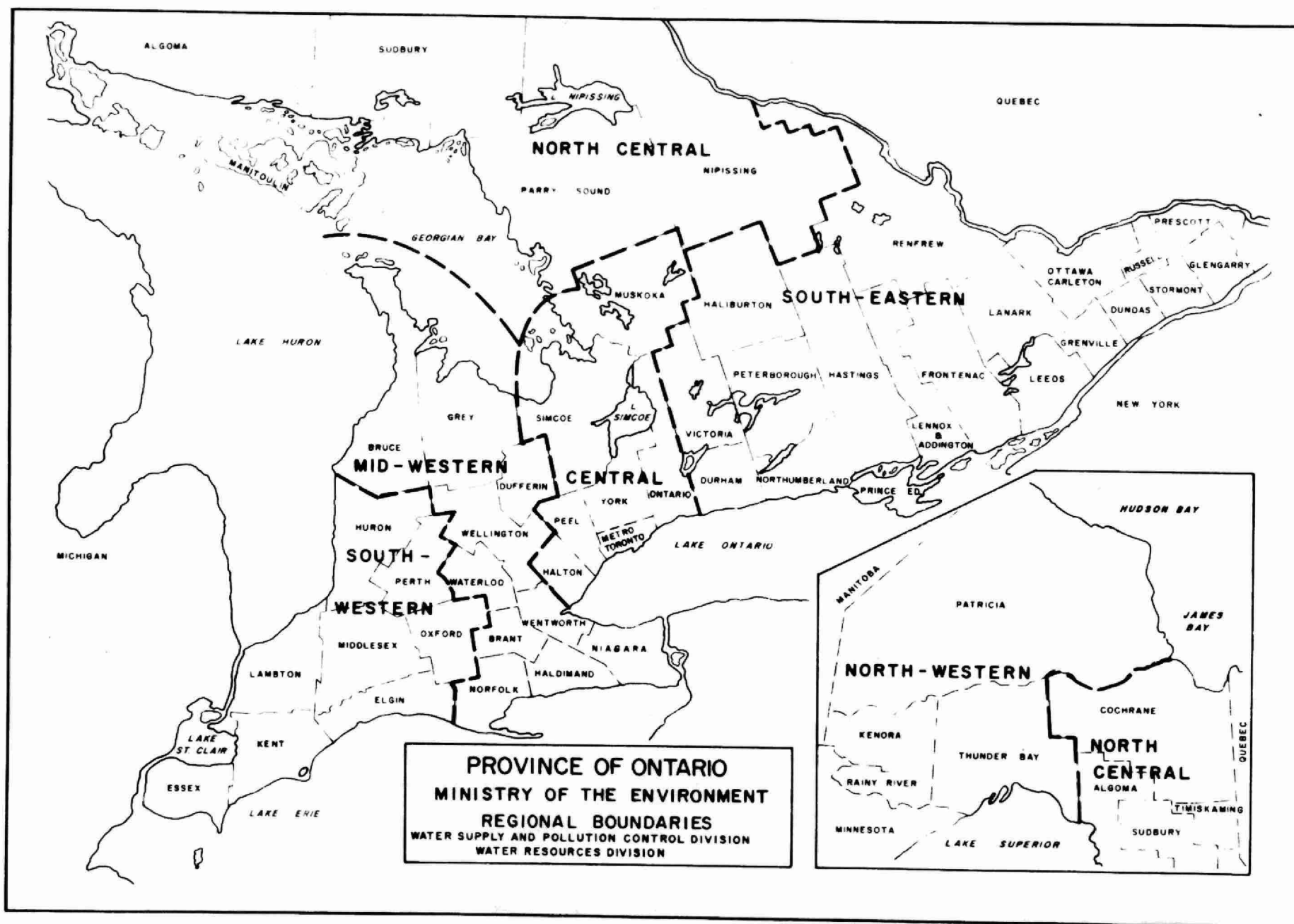
TELEPHONE CONTACTS FOR REPORTING ACCIDENTAL SPILLS AND DISCHARGES
MAY 1973

Region	Office	Field services Personnel	Telephone Office
South	Sarnia	*J.D. Luyt	519-336-0130
Western		T. Wood	519-336-0130
Ontario		R.A. Breeze	519-336-0130
	London	R. Hussain	519-673-1230
		G. Samuel	519-673-1230
Mid-	Toronto	*R.C. Stewart	416-965-6346
Western		J.A. Barker	416-965-6346
Ontario		P. Chisholm	416-965-6346
		P.A. Fischer	416-965-6346
Central	Toronto	T.D. Armstrong	416-965-6346
Ontario		M. Filey	416-965-6346
		R.D. Hogg	416-965-6346
		G. Greene	416-965-6346
South	Toronto	*J.W. Vogt	416-965-6346
Eastern		H.O. Wigle	416-965-6346
Ontario	Kingston	G.I. Macey	613-546-3171
		R.P. Michea	613-546-3171
	Ottawa	G.R. Clarke	613-731-5819
	Peter-		
	borough	H.L. Bell	705-742-0894
North	Sudbury	*L.W. Fitz	(705-674-3151)
Central		J. Foster	(Ext. 251) "
Ontario		L. Olivier	()
	Sault		
	Ste. Marie	G.J. LaHaye	705-949-4640
North	Thunder		
Western	Bay	*I. Ramsay	807-623-5591
Ontario		G.A. Grosse	807-623-5591
		B.F. Mason	807-623-5591
	Kenora	J.R. Barr	807-468-5578

* Regional Engineer

Note

In case the appropriate regional offices or regional staff cannot be reached, moderate or major accidental discharges or spill incidents as defined in this report may be reported to the Ontario Operations Center -- 416-965-2537. Minor spills or complaints should be reported to the nearest regional district office during working hours. Inquiries should be directed to the Information Services Branch of this Ministry at 135 St. Clair Ave. W., Toronto, M4V 1P5, telephone number -- 416-965-1658.



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